

HOUSE BILL NO. 25

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVE HAWKER

Introduced: 1/20/09

Referred: Health and Social Services, Finance

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act establishing the Alaska Health Reform Policy Commission in the Department**
2 **of Health and Social Services, and establishing the position of the executive director of**
3 **that commission in the partially exempt service; and providing for an effective date."**

4 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

5 * **Section 1.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section
6 to read:

7 **LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND INTENT.** (a) The Alaska Legislature finds that

8 (1) the Constitution of the State of Alaska requires the legislature to promote
9 and protect the public health;

10 (2) health policy issues present some of the greatest challenges faced by the
11 state;

12 (3) the health status of Alaskans is directly tied to the long-term success of the
13 state's economy and well being; and

14 (4) the increasing cost of health care is threatening employer-sponsored health

1 care and making companies less competitive in the global economy.

2 (b) The legislature intends to mandate under this Act an evaluation of the state's
3 health care needs, propose reforms, and improve health care in Alaska by establishing the
4 Alaska Health Reform Policy Commission to include all public and private stakeholders for
5 the purpose of developing a comprehensive policy that better meets the current and long-
6 range health care needs in the state.

7 * **Sec. 2.** AS 18 is amended by adding a new chapter to read:

8 **Chapter 09. Statewide Health Care.**

9 **Article 1. Alaska Health Reform Policy Commission.**

10 **Sec. 18.09.010. Alaska Health Reform Policy Commission.** The Alaska
11 Health Reform Policy Commission is established in the Department of Health and
12 Social Services. The purpose of the commission is to consider the entire spectrum of
13 health care related issues in the state and formulate targeted and specific policy
14 recommendations to be considered by the legislature and by the executive branch.

15 **Sec. 18.09.020. Composition; chair; meetings.** (a) The commission consists
16 of 16 members, including

17 (1) 11 members appointed by the governor as follows:

18 (A) the commissioner of health and social services or the
19 commissioner's designee, who shall serve as chair;

20 (B) 10 members who have specialized training or experience
21 and are recognized leaders in the members' fields and who are either a health
22 care consumers or health care providers of services as follows:

23 (i) three members representing private health care
24 interests;

25 (ii) three members representing organizations that
26 provide health care coverage, including an employer that provides an
27 employer-sponsored health insurance plan, a union that has a union
28 health care trust, and a third-party insurance provider;

29 (iii) two members representing health care consumers;

30 (iv) one member representing non-Native federal health
31 care services;

1 (v) one member representing tribal health care services;

2 and

3 (2) five nonvoting advisory members appointed as follows:

4 (A) two members from the senate, appointed by the president
5 of the senate;

6 (B) two members from the house of representatives, appointed
7 by the speaker of the house of representatives;

8 (C) one member appointed by the governor.

9 (b) The commission shall meet regularly in person or by teleconference. All
10 meetings shall be open to the public and shall be held on reasonable notice. A quorum
11 is a majority of the voting members of the commission. The votes of the members of
12 the commission shall be recorded, and effective action requires the affirmative vote of
13 a majority of the voting members of the commission present. A member may not be
14 recused from voting solely based on a conflict of interest.

15 (c) A public member appointed to the commission is not entitled to a salary,
16 but is entitled to per diem, reimbursement for travel, and other expenses authorized for
17 boards and commissions under AS 39.20.180.

18 (d) A member serves at the pleasure of the member's appointing authority for
19 a five-year term. A vacancy may be filled for the remainder of a member's term. At the
20 direction of the appointment authority, a member appointed by the president of the
21 senate or speaker of the house of representatives may remain on the commission even
22 if that member does not remain in the legislature for the full five-year term.

23 **Sec. 18.09.030. Duties.** The duties of the commission established under
24 AS 18.09.010 include

25 (1) providing a public forum for the consideration and discussion of
26 health policy alternatives;

27 (2) developing, coordinating, and recommending to the legislature and
28 to the governor health policy reform initiatives;

29 (3) coordinating policy development with state, federal, and private
30 sector interests that finance, provide, or regulate the delivery of health care;

31 (4) coordinating health policy development among relevant state

1 agencies;

2 (5) developing policy recommendations to

3 (A) improve individual access to health insurance and health
4 care services;

5 (B) promote healthful life choices made by individuals;

6 (C) contain health care costs;

7 (D) enhance diversity of health care options;

8 (E) improve quality of health care;

9 (F) inform consumers;

10 (G) meet current and future workforce needs in the health care
11 industry; and

12 (6) developing viable financing proposals to support the commission's
13 recommendations.

14 **Sec. 18.09.040. Executive director.** The commission shall employ an
15 executive director who may not be a member of the commission. The executive
16 director shall serve at the pleasure of the commission. The commission shall establish
17 the duties of the executive director. The executive director is in the partially exempt
18 service under AS 39.25 (State Personnel Act).

19 **Sec. 18.09.050. Reports.** The commission shall submit an annual report to the
20 legislature and the governor by January 15 of each year. The report must summarize
21 significant work, findings, and recommendations of the commission. The first report
22 of the commission must include a five-year strategic plan with prioritized, targeted,
23 and defined objectives as well as an evaluation of the strengths, weaknesses, and
24 relative performance of health care services and conditions in the state. Subsequent
25 reports must include revisions, if any, to the strategic plan, along with a report on the
26 progress of the commission in meeting the objectives of the plan.

27 **Sec. 18.09.095. Definition.** In this chapter, "commission" means the Alaska
28 Health Reform Policy Commission.

29 * **Sec. 3.** AS 39.25.120(c)(7) is amended to read:

30 (7) the principal executive officer of the following boards, councils, or
31 commissions:

- 1 (A) Alaska Public Broadcasting Commission;
 2 (B) Professional Teaching Practices Commission;
 3 (C) Parole Board;
 4 (D) Board of Nursing;
 5 (E) Real Estate Commission;
 6 (F) Alaska Royalty Oil and Gas Development Advisory Board;
 7 (G) Alaska State Council on the Arts;
 8 (H) Alaska Police Standards Council;
 9 (I) Alaska Commission on Aging;
 10 (J) Alaska Mental Health Board;
 11 (K) State Medical Board;
 12 (L) Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education;
 13 (M) Advisory Board on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse;
 14 (N) Statewide Suicide Prevention Council;
 15 (O) the State Board of Registration for Architect, Engineers,
 16 and Land Surveyors;
 17 **(P) Alaska Health Reform Policy Commission;**

18 * **Sec. 4.** AS 18.09.010, 18.09.020, 18.09.030, 18.09.040, 18.09.050, 18.09.095; and
 19 AS 39.25.120(c)(7)(P) are repealed July 1, 2015.

20 * **Sec. 5.** This Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).